

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-03

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-02 TRSE-00 USIA-04

NSC-07 SCI-03 OMB-01 ARAE-00 DRC-01 /050 W

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P R 091739Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5208

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9012

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS SNAR CO

SUBJ: NARCOTICS PROGRAM FOR COLOMBIA

REF STATE 220986

1. BASED ON LAINCC APPROVAL OF FUNDING LEVEL OF \$503,000 FOR COLOMBIA, MISSION WILL PROCEED WITH INITIAL PROJECT AGREEMENT AND EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT FOR DAS UP TO \$150,000 AS OUTLINED IN BOGOTA 8315, 8737 AND 8937 WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT MAY BE REQUIRED FOR DAS AS A RESULT OF ADDED RESPONSIBILITIES AND CAPACITIES.

2. REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE VARIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, THE DAS, THE NATIONAL POLICE AND CUSTOMS, ALL CONTINUE TO PROCEED WITH ACTIVE NARCOTICS PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, PRES LOPEZ HAS TOLD THE AMB THAT HE INTENDS TO GIVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR NARCOTICS INTERDICTION TO GEN MATALLANA AND THE DAS. HOWEVER, PRES LOPEZ CAME VERY CLOSE TO STATING THIS PUBLICLY IN A SPEECH TO REPS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY. RESPONDING TO CHARGES THAT HE HAD "MILITARIZED" THE DAS, LOPEZ DREW ON A MEMO GIVEN TO HIM BY THE AMB CITING THE MAGNITUDE OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM AS REASON
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FOR TURNING THE DIRECTION OF DAS OVER TO COMPETENT, EXPERIENCED,

HONEST AND APOLITICAL MIL LEADERS. IT IS, OF COURSE, STILL TOO EARLY TO DISCERN HOW THE RELATIVE ROLES OF THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WILL SHAKEDOWN IN PRACTICE. SO FAR WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY MATALLANA'S TAKE CHAROM ATTITUDE AND OBVIOUS HONESTY AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THE JOB. HOW THIS WILL TRANSLATE INTO DIVISIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BECOME MORE CLEAR IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.

3. AT THE PRESENT TIME AID/PSD TDY COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR IS IN COUNTRY ASSISTING NATIONAL POLICE, DAS ADQ CUSTOMS IN NARCOTICS COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM. HIS ASSIGNMENT HERE SHOULD TERMINATE ON OR ABOUT OCT 14/74. UPON COMPLETION OF TDY ADVISOR'S STUDY AND ASSISTANCE MISSION AND GOC ENFORCEMENT AGEN IES WILL BE IN MORE FAVORABLE POSITION TO EVAL PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF GOC AGENCIES.

4. MISSION WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA WITH AMB VANCE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF TWO-THREE MAN TECH TEAM TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPNG ACTION PLAN AND RELATING US ASSISTANCE. MISSION'S INITIAL REACTION IS THAT TWO-THREE MAN TEAM COULD PROVE BENEFICIAL TO OUR EFFORTS. VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PROGRAM ASSISTANCE, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BOGOTA09012
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740287-0083
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741061/aaaabzzy.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 220986
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS PROGRAM FOR COLOMBIA
TAGS: SNAR, CO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005